DOCKET: **TUC920000084-US1**

FAILURE ISOLATION IN A DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING SYSTEM
EMPLOYING RELATIVE LOCATION INFORMATION

ABSTRACT

Failure isolation in a distributed processing system of

5 processor nodes coupled by a multi-drop bus network. The

processor nodes have information of relative locations of the

processor nodes on the network, and have an associated local

error indicator, such as a character display. Each node

independently tests access to other nodes on the network, and

10 upon detecting a failure to access one or more nodes, determines,

from the relative locations, the node having failed access which

is closest. The failure detecting processor posts, at its

associated local error indicator, an identifier of the closest

failed access node. A user may inspect the local error

15 indicators and thereby isolate the detected failure.